(b) the number of drugs tested at this level during the last three years;

(c) how many drugs were found substandard out of them; and

(d) the names of those drugs and the details of action taken against the manufactures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules thereunder, the State Governments have been empowered to enforce quality of drugs including monitoring of manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs. The enforcement of quality control of drugs and pharmaceuticals is regulated by a system of licensing by the State Governments. As per the information available from the State Licensing Authorities, the number of samples tested for quality during the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is given below:

Year	Samples
1997-98	32936
1998-99	38936
1999-2000	35570

(c) and (d) Information, to the extent available, from the State Licensing Authorities is given in Annexure. (See Appendix 195, Annexure No. 35)

Production of Medicines

3353. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the percentage increase in prices of various medicines during the last three years, together with the reasons therefor; and

(b) what effective measures Government have undertaken to ensure quality production of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) As per the information available from the Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Wholesale Price Index (with base 1993-94-100) of drugs and medicines showed an annual average increase of 3.69 per cent from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 (upto December, 2001). The reasons for rise in the prices of medicines are rise in the prices of inputs like bulk drugs, excipients

etc., rise in the cost of transport, rise in the cost of utilities, depreciation of the Indian rupee against dollar etc.

(b) Government have recently announced the "Pharmaceutical Policy-2002". The main objectives of this Policy are, *inter-alia,* ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production.

Availability of medicines at reasonable price

3354. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1354, given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th March, 2002 and state the composition of the high power Committee to look into the pricing and availability of medicines at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): The composition of the Drug Price Control Review Committee is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Composition of the Drug Price Control Review Committee

1.	Secretary, Deptt. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals	Chairman
2.	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & F.W.	Member
3.	Dr. D.B. Gupta	Men.ber
4.	Dr. H. Khorakiwala	Member
5.	Dr. Rakesh Mohan	Member
6.	Dr.AmitMitra	Member
7.	Joint Secretary (PI)	Member
8.	Chairman, NPPA	Member
9.	Drug Controller General of India	Member
10.	Dr. Mira Shiva	Member
11.	OSD, Deptt. of C&PC	Convenor / Member